

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that he secured \$400,000 in congressionally-directed funding for wireless broadband connection to improve and expand emergency services in Otsego County. These funds were included in a fiscal year 2009 funding bill, which will be voted on in the House of Representatives this week.

“Since taking office, I have worked with officials from Otsego County and the City of Oneonta to expand 9-1-1 capabilities and make sure local businesses and families are safe and secure,” **sa id Arcuri**

. “Because of the unique geography of hills and valleys here in Otsego County it is necessary to implement special strategies to allow interoperability so that law enforcement agencies can communicate with each other. This is an example of taxpayer money coming back to invest in safety and economic development right here in Otsego County.”

Arcuri secured \$400,000 for Otsego County Wireless Broadband Connection which will enable city and county emergency service providers to communicate faster and more efficiently, as well as the potential for broadband connection. This funding will ensure that the county’s communications system is capable of dispatching emergency first responders in the shortest time possible.

The funds secured by Arcuri are included in the fiscal year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which is expected to pass the House of Representatives this week. The legislation will then go to the Senate.

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